

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JIM
CAFFRAY**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to Jim Caffray and thank him for his work as Archives Technician with the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC). His years of commitment and dedication as a public servant are certainly commendable and worthy of recognition before this body of Congress and this nation today. I, along with my fellow Americans am grateful for all that he has accomplished during his years of service.

Jim Caffray served in the Navy during the Vietnam era and later continued his service to this nation when he became an Intermittent Archives Aid in June of 1992. He was hired full time in the civilian division of the NPRC in February of 1993. Jim was reassigned to Military Personnel Records in April of 1995. As an Archives Technician, Jim has served over 25,000 veterans by responding to requests for records. As an Expert Technician, Jim supports Archives Technicians on his team with his historical knowledge, while responding to the most complex inquiries received by the Center.

During my tenure in the United States Congress, Jim provided exceptional service to constituents of the 3rd Congressional District of Colorado. Jim worked hard to ensure that inquiries on behalf of my constituents submitted to NPRC were addressed in a timely and thorough manner. Jim routinely demonstrated a willingness to assist beyond the standard response, showing a genuine concern for the constituent while upholding the policies of the National Personnel Records Center.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Jim has been an invaluable resource to the National Personnel Records Center. It is my honor to recognize his service and dedication before this body of Congress and this nation. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with dedicated public servants like Jim Caffray. On behalf of the citizens that have benefited from the hard work and commitment he has given to the National Personnel Records Center and constituents it serves, I extend my appreciation for his years of dedicated service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, on July 15 and July 19, 2004, I was unavoidably absent from rollcall votes numbered 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, and 393. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcalls 385, 387, 390, 391, 392, and 393. I would have voted "nay" on rollcalls 386, 388, and 389.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, July 15, 2004, I was unable to vote on the Buyer Amendment to H.R. 4818, the FY2005 Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act (rollcall number 385). Had I been present I would have voted "yes."

WALMART'S COMMUNITY
INVESTMENT**HON. MARION BERRY**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud Wal-Mart's recent investment in community. Wal-Mart has decided to look no further than America's backyard to facilitate the manufacturing of quality products from a quality company here at home, Pinnacle Frames & Accents. Wal-Mart's recent decision to renew its contract with Pinnacle displays the company's desire to help the American worker as well as stimulate the American economy.

Wal-Mart deserves praise for making a conscious effort to employ American workers producing American products. Not only has Wal-Mart supported a superior company manufacturing a superior product, but it has deliberately strengthened the company's own ties within the community.

As a further example of Wal-Mart's commitment to community, as Reservists and members of the National Guard are called up for duty, Wal-Mart has ensured our brave men and women receive 100% of their salary while they are protecting our freedoms abroad. This selfless act on behalf of our troops is rare and sets an example we can only hope the rest of corporate America will follow.

Pinnacle Frames & Accents, who just recently renewed their contract with Wal-Mart, is located in Piggott and Pocahontas, Arkansas and maintains a commitment to creating excellent products through their diligent work ethic and professional attention to detail. Pinnacle's employees are hardworking Americans eager and enthusiastic to produce the best products on the market. Wal-Mart, through its recent contract, has proved that one does not have to venture outside of the U.S. to find first-rate, premium products at a fair price like those produced by Pinnacle.

On behalf of the Congress, I recognize Wal-Mart for its decision to continue to invest in its rural roots as well as Pinnacle for their devoted workers and their distinguished business ideals. Wal-Mart's interest in American business practices is apparent through the renewal of this contract with Pinnacle who jointly shares in the company's desire to manufacture superior, quality products.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall vote 391, to promote freedom and democracy in Viet Nam (H.R. 1587); rollcall vote 392, concerning the importance of the distribution of food in schools to hungry or malnourished children around the world (S. Con. Res. 114); rollcall vote 393, to require a report on the conflict in Uganda (S. 2264).

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" for rollcall votes 391, 392 and 393.

HONORING 130 YEARS OF HISTORY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Dover Fire Department, of the Town of Dover, in Morris County, New Jersey, a vibrant community I am proud to represent! On July 17, 2004, the good citizens of Dover are celebrating the Fire Department's One-Hundred-Thirtieth Anniversary with a parade.

For 130 years, the Dover Fire Department has been protecting and serving the residents of their community. The fire department is made up of eighty-five volunteers, including Fire Chief Kevin Kasko. Mr. Kasko's father was also a fire department volunteer, serving for forty years. Other dedicated members of the fire department include First Assistant Chief Walter Michalski, Second Assistant Chief William Gilbert, and Third Assistant Chief Edward Ridner. The fire department has three grand marshals with over fifty years of dedicated service to the community they are Fred Sharp, William Gardner, and Herbert Swartz.

The Dover Fire Department has a deep history that is evident in their striking collection of antique fire equipment. To commemorate the Dover Fire Department's 130 year anniversary, thirty-five fire departments from nearby communities will join in a parade that follows a route through a historic area of Dover.

From its charter members to its current roster, the membership of the Dover Fire Department, over the last one hundred thirty years, has dedicated itself to the safety and welfare of Dover's good citizens. Dover's firefighters, dedicated public servants, past and present, are to be commended for a job well done!

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the members of the Dover Fire Department on the celebration of its one-hundred thirty years protecting one of New Jersey's finest municipalities.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO OLATHE
REBEKAH LODGE**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise and pay tribute to the Rebekahs of

Olathe, Colorado for their group's dedication to building a more civil community through strong companionship. Recently, the chapter celebrated one-hundred years of fellowship and service to the community. As they mark this impressive milestone, I would like to recognize their outstanding commitment to promoting the community before this body of Congress and this nation today.

The Rebekahs started nationally in 1851 to encourage loyal relationships with God, while simultaneously building strong relationships in the community. The Rebekah chapter in Olathe was chartered in 1904 by a petition of twenty-seven of the original thirty-two charter members. They created a loyal group that provides companionship for each other as members. Additionally, they created a body committed to a better citizenship by teaching strong moral character. Since 1913, the Rebekahs have been meeting twice a month in the same building of the Olathe Community Center.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the staying power and service to others the Rebekahs have demonstrated over the years. Their commitment to a strong community is apparent through their kind work and I congratulate the Rebekahs on their anniversary.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF EUGENE FARRELL

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Eugene Farrell from Dermott, Arkansas who passed away on July 3, 2004. As a dedicated member to the City of Dermott, Mr. Farrell's life was full of honors and achievements.

Mr. Farrell was a selfless public servant, serving not only as Mayor of Dermott from 1988–1999, but also as a Quorum Court member. For his dedication and loyalty to the City of Dermott and Chicot County, I will forever be grateful.

I am deeply saddened by the death of Mr. Farrell. His passing will leave a huge void on the Chicot County Quorum Court, the City of Dermott, and in the lives of many friends. My heart goes out to his wife of 59 years, June Barrett, and their four children, Sheila Brannon, Linda Fowler, Buddy Farrell, and Brian Fowler. I extend my sincerest sympathies to them and can only hope that we find some solace in the lasting legacy of Eugene Farrell as his spirit lives on in each of us.

RECOGNIZING MR. F.E. WHITNEY

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. F.E. Whitney of Hopkinsville, Kentucky.

F.E. Whitney has faithfully served his country, his community and his fellow citizens through a lifetime of public service.

Mr. Whitney's family settled in Hopkinsville in 1897. He was born in 1916. He graduated from Kentucky State University in 1937 and returned to Hopkinsville where he still resides today.

Mr. Whitney is a member of what Tom Brokaw termed "The Greatest Generation", serving his country honorably in World War II.

Mr. Whitney has been an involved citizen in Christian County and Hopkinsville, Kentucky for over 50 years. He became a member of the Kentucky Association of Realtors in 1958 and was later accepted as a member of the National Board of Realtors. He was the first African American member.

Some of F.E. Whitney's many accomplishments include serving the public as a Realtor and Small Business Owner when he established F. E. Whitney Real Estate Agency, Inc. in 1948. This business remains in operation today.

F.E. Whitney served 21 years on the Hopkinsville City Council. In 1973, he served as Mayor Pro Tem. In 1977, he was elected to the Christian County Fiscal Court where he served over 20 years. Mr. Whitney has served the Pennyryle Area Development District, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, The Pioneer's and his church. He has been an activist for civil rights.

F.E. Whitney was honored by Christian County and the State of Kentucky when the I-24 Welcome Center was named in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. F.E. Whitney embodies the spirit, commitment and sacrifice that we all should strive for in our daily lives. He has not only made a success out of his life, but he has also been a gift to our community. I am proud to represent him in the Congress. On behalf of the citizens of the First District of Kentucky, we thank him for his service and we bring his accomplishments to the attention of this House.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 4855

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was joined by Mr. Boswell of Iowa in introducing legislation to create an Independent National Security Classification Board to review current standards and procedures for the classification of information for national security purposes and make recommendations for needed changes.

Today's classification system is broken. The Executive Branch exerts almost total control over what should or should not be classified. There is no self-correcting mechanism in the system. The Executive Branch has a little known group that can review classification issues, but it is seldom used and open only to Executive Branch employees, not to Members of Congress or the public.

The bottom line is: there is no independent review of the classification decisions by the Executive Branch.

With no chance of unbiased review, classification decisions are ready and ripe for abuse. Agencies wishing to hide their flaws and politicians of both parties wishing to make political points can abuse the existing classification guidelines to their advantage. This needs to change.

William Leonard, Director of the Information Security Office, acknowledged in a recent speech that the classification system for national security has lost touch with the basics; that some agencies don't know how much information they classify, or whether they are classifying more or less than they once did; whether they are classifying too much or too little. He called today's classification system "a patchwork quilt" that is the result of a hodgepodge of laws, regulations and directives. "In reality," he said "the Federal Government has so many varieties of classification that it can make Heinz look modest . . ."

The most recent evidence that the system is broken can be found in the forthcoming 9–11 Commission report and last week's Senate Intelligence Committee Report on Iraq pre-war intelligence. But the problems of declassification also plagued the Joint Inquiry into Intelligence Community Activities Before and After the Terrorist Attacks of September 11, 2001, on which Mr. Boswell and I both served. All of these reports show the problems that arise from a "need to know" rather than a "need to share" culture of overclassification.

Even more important than the information that is published in these reports is the information withheld from the public and redacted from the reports. These reports demonstrate a serious imbalance of power between the public and the officials who make the classification decisions. They raise troubling questions about whether those who control the classification of information for national security purposes have misused this authority to shield officials from the glare of public accountability and to stifle public debate about politically sensitive parts of the war on terrorism.

This legislation establishes an Independent National Security Classification Board. The Board would be made up of three individuals, knowledgeable in national security classification, appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate.

The task of the Independent Board would be to review and make recommendations on overhauling the standards and process used in the classification system for national security information. The Board would submit proposed new standards and processes to both Congress and the Executive Branch for comment and revision, and then implement the new standards and process once they have had the opportunity to comment. The Board would then begin to implement the new system, reviewing and making recommendations on current and new national security classifications, subject to Executive Branch veto that must be accompanied by a public, written explanation.

The balance in this proposal assures that the public and Congress have access to an independent Board for national security classification matters while leaving undisturbed the Commander in Chief's constitutional prerogative in military and foreign policy matters through the power to appoint the Board and to veto the Board's classification decisions.

This bill was introduced in the Senate by a bipartisan group of Senators and it is our hope that this bill will attract bipartisan support in the House. However, with so little time left in the legislative session and in recognition of the importance of these issues, Mr. Boswell and I, both members of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, felt it was important to get this bill into the process now. I urge Members to support this bill.